

Will the American Gov't do

1862-3

Palmer, B. Frank

WILL THE
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
PRESENT AN
ARTIFICIAL ARM

(NOT A "CLUTCH")

TO THE

Mutilated American Soldier?

PETITION OF THREE HUNDRED SOLDIERS.

(PAGE 7.)



Artificial Arms for American Soldiers.

"THE BEST OR NONE."

THE following pages will give the reader some idea of the present aspect of the "ARM" question. An attempt has been made by Government officials to furnish a substitute for this most important member, *for the sum of twenty-five dollars*. Considering the *offer* of such a contemptible thing to the *soldier*, as an act scarcely less reprehensible than the act of the rebel in shooting off his natural limb, I have avoided all participation in the matter. Liberal appropriations have been made by Congress for supplying artificial "*limbs*,"—not "*sticks*" and "*clutches*"—and I cannot consent to make any Arm or Leg but the *best* for the gallant soldier.

This will explain the cause of the delay. I shall soon, I trust, have the pleasure of informing the armless soldier that his just claims will be regarded in this matter.

A year ago I learned that the contract for supplying artificial *legs*, for soldiers, was about to be awarded to rough mechanics, who were making a *miserable counterfeit of my Patent*. The reason assigned was, that \$50 per leg was all that the agent of the Government would pay. I immediately forwarded the following proposition to the Surgeon-General, viz.:



"PHILADELPHIA, October 7, 1862.

"SIR: I will supply *three hundred Artificial Legs and Feet*, for the mutilated soldiers of the American army, for \$15,000. *This is but half the lowest price I have ever received, is half the amount I am now receiving from the Government institution (Soldiers' Home, in Washington, D. C.) and is much below the prime cost.*

I tender the proposition as a *contribution of \$15,000.*"

The "contribution of \$15,000" is completed, three hundred of my best Patent Legs having been furnished. While I have been doing this, several counterfeiters of my Patents have been furnishing their *shabby imitations* at the same price; and one individual has been supplying a thing (with "lateral motion" in it) which Surgeon-General Hammond has assured me is an "*absurdity.*" This man has been charging the *soldier* \$50 for the "*absurdity,*" and the Government \$50 for the *stick* on which it turns. Another manufacturer was at first *rejected*, then *tried*, then *dismissed* summarily. Such have been some of the doings of the past year. It is to be hoped that the next year will show a better record for the armless and legless soldiers.

Had a suitable arrangement been made when it should have been, last season, I could have been prepared to supply the whole demand at this time. As it is, my applications number five hundred in advance of the supply. I have about one hundred commissioned officers on the list—four of whom are generals, twenty colonels, about seventy captains and lieutenants. I am supplying at the rate of about one hundred per month. Congress will, I trust, make all appropriations necessary to furnish the best limbs in future, and I shall *not cease in my efforts until the best limb that can be made shall be presented, free of charge, to every soldier, of every race or color, who has given, or shall give his own precious arm or leg in the service of this potential and beneficent Government.*

B. F. P.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PHILADELPHIA, June 1st, 1863.

CHARLES F. STANSBURY, ESQ.

MY DEAR FRIEND: Will you do me the favor to call on General Hammond, and say to him, that the Medical Director in New York, Dr. McDougall, has sent me a number of orders for *arms*, and I know not what to do with them. Dr. McDougall requested me to call General Hammond's attention to the subject, and I have thought you would do me the favor I now ask, as I cannot find time to go to Washington.

I have about three hundred applicants, all wishing the *best* limb. They propose, voluntarily, to pay a portion of the price to obtain *such*, not being willing to have the *inferior ones* made by others, on any terms.

I receive \$150 each, for all I can make at present, but will give the same limb to the *soldier* at from \$75 to \$100, (by large contract.)

These soldiers have requested me to intercede for them in the matter, and I do so, assured that the Surgeon-General will cheerfully respond to their request; since I am aware that a precedent has been established for so doing in the case of the leg.

Faternally yours,

B. FRANK. PALMER.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

WASHINGTON CITY, June 8th, 1863.

MY DEAR PALMER: The Surgeon-General has been out of town. Hence my silence. I have seen him to-day. *He could see no objection to your proposition, and said if I would leave your note he would write me a note to that effect.* I do not wait for his note to inform you, but will inclose it to you as soon as received.

In haste, yours truly,

CHAS. F. STANSBURY.

SURGEON-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., June 10th, 1863.

SIR: Your letter to Mr. Stansbury, and inclosed order from Medical Director McDougall, for artificial arm, is received.

A board of officers has been ordered to convene in Philadelphia on the 22d inst., to examine models for artificial arms, and on the reception of their report, the desired information will be forwarded you. The order is respectfully returned.

By order of the Surgeon General.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. S. DUNSTER.

DR. B. FRANK. PALMER, Philadelphia, Pa.

TO THE BOARD OF SURGEONS CONVENED BY THE SURGEON-GENERAL, U. S. A.,
JUNE 22, 1863, TO EXAMINE ARTIFICIAL ARMS, ETC.

GENTLEMEN: With your permission I will present my views by reading a short paper, which will give a concise view of the subject under consideration.

In the year 1800, James Pott, (who had lost a leg,) made the first *important* improvement in artificial limbs. His invention (the Anglesey leg) stands, to-day, pre-eminent over all other inventions of the kind, if I make no exception of the "Palmer" Limbs, of whose merits yourselves will be the better judges. In the year 1845 I tested, in person, the Anglesey leg, and in 1846 patented my own invention, made on a principle *entirely dissimilar*. With its history you are familiar. I only allude to it.

In May, 1846, I presented my invention to the "COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND THE ARTS" of the FRANKLIN INSTITUTE, PHILADELPHIA. The investigation was continued until January, 1850, at which time the highest award of the Institute, the "SCOTT'S LEGACY MEDAL," was given. In 1851, I presented it, (in competition with about 30 others,) in the WORLD'S EXHIBITION, LONDON, and in 1853, at the GREAT EXHIBITION in NEW YORK. The PRIZE MEDAL was awarded for it, as being the "Best," at each of these Exhibitions.

In 1851, by invitation of M. ROUX, and M. VELPEAU, I presented my invention to the *Société de Chirurgie* of PARIS. The Report was published in a series of numbers, in the *Bulletin Général Médicale et Chirurgicale, Paris*, commencing January 15, 1860, as follows, viz.:

"THE OLD SURGEONS in their art, always knew the end which they were pursuing, and also did not hesitate to introduce, in its development, everything which could conduce to that end. Accordingly, the investigation of remedies for mutilations figures in their works equally with those operations which have caused the loss of members, and that too at a time when mechanical knowledge could only furnish the crudest attempts for this branch of surgical therapeutics. Let us take, for example, the designs furnished us by Ambrose Paré, the most complete of all authors, in this respect. *Now that the progress of the mechanic arts has furnished unquestionable aid, and can produce something better, all these notions have disappeared from our medical literature.* Let a surgeon be consulted in regard to the means of concealing the simplest amputation, and he knows not what to advise, for he is ignorant both of the trials which have been made, and the state of art in what especially concerns this point. *The surgeon is forced to send his patients for advice to the makers of artificial limbs, and to give them up to their attempts.*"

The above is the language of the *Société de Chirurgie*, which also gave the "Palmer Limbs" the highest award, over the English and French inventions.

If you ask, gentlemen, what all this has to do with supplying "*Arms for American Soldiers*," I reply, respectfully, as follows: *The only real guaranty which the soldier can have in obtaining a false arm or leg, is found in the established reputation of the manufacturer.*

The mechanism of the Patent Arm is more complex than that of the Leg, consequently, the task of constructing is more difficult. Nevertheless, I have proved that many of the principles involved in the Palmer leg are equally important in the Arm and Hand. The Leg (with 5000 in use) has stood the test of 17 years' critical inspection, in all of the principal cities of the world. The Arm and Hand have cost me more study and research, and have been as successfully and satisfactorily employed, for about five years, by a great number of persons wearing them.

In October last, I had an interview with Surgeon-General HAMMOND, in reference to the subject of the Leg. The Arm I did not present. The price which the Board of Surgeons convened in New York recommended, (\$25,) was so inadequate as to preclude the possibility of offering an Arm of *suitable quality* for

the gallant soldier. The "*best or none*," is what every soldier rightfully demands. Anything short of "*the best*" is not acceptable to him, and, in my judgment, to offer any other to the mutilated hero who has gallantly *given an Arm in defence of his Country*, would wound the sensibility of the patriotic soldier.

I am thus particular in defining my position, so that there may be no misapprehension on any point. I shall be very glad to *serve* the soldier, but cannot consent to wound him afresh by offering a pitiful counterfeit, which is more to be dreaded than the commiseration which the absence of the member would elicit. An order was recently issued by the SURGEON-GENERAL, *cutting off the Government patronage* from persons making Arms and Legs, upon which orders for ARMS, as well as legs, were sent to me. Not having been an applicant for such orders, I inclosed one of them to the SURGEON-GENERAL requesting to know the design, and reminding him that the soldier was more willing to pay my full price for the *best* Arm than to accept an inferior one as a gift.

If the entire patronage shall be awarded me I will fix the price of each limb one-fourth less than can be done if it shall be distributed. In this way the sum of \$100,000 may be saved to the Government and the soldier. *This can be done only by expending a large sum in labor-saving machinery.*

I present the Petition* of a great number of soldiers, at whose request I made the appeal to the SURGEON-GENERAL, many of whom have already paid me \$100 *in advance*, and will beg leave to ask that the sum which would *now* be paid for an Arm, *be refunded to them*. This has been done in supplying the Leg.

Several distinguished Generals, now in the Service, employ my Patent Limbs with great success, and many other officers are, by their aid, filling responsible stations, which they could not fill without them. The officers have paid \$150.

In supplying Artificial Legs, I am prepared to prove that many soldiers have been *compelled* to accept an inferior imitation, (a counterfeit,) of my Patent, *against their will*, and there are at this moment several soldiers in this city who positively refused to accept legs of other construction, and came to me prepared to pay for their limbs *out of their own small means*.

* See page 7.

Trusting that no mutilated soldier will be compelled to accept an *Arm*, (from myself or any other person,) *against his desire*, I am,

Your obedient servant,

B. FRANK. PALMER.

PHILADELPHIA, 22d June, 1863.

P E T I T I O N .

The following names of Privates and Non-commissioned Officers have been presented. The residences and regiments are recorded in this office.

PETITION TO THE SURGEON-GENERAL.

WE, the undersigned SOLDIERS, having lost ARMS while in the SERVICE of the UNITED STATES, respectfully request the SURGEON-GENERAL to allow us to receive from GOVERNMENT the PATENT ARM made by B. FRANK. PALMER, or, allow us the amount which would be paid to any other person for furnishing a "Government Limb," to aid us in obtaining it, so that we may elect in purchasing an article of STANDARD MERIT, which we believe PALMER'S to be.

JOHN C. CURTIN,
WM. MCGINNIS,
WM. PRICE,
ROBERT DUFFY,
HUGH MURPHY,
GEORGE COLLINS,
JAMES SULLIVAN,
JOHN MCSAULIE,
LEWIS SELBING,
WM. PAETRI,
WM. PEERS,
PATRICK O'CONNOR,
JOHN FAHY,
D. M. GLENN,
JOHN MCCORNIE,
JAMES GALLATINE,
CHARLES ROGERS,
CHARLES NICHOLS,

WM. MENBRALL,
RICHARD MURPHY,
JAMES A. MACAULEY,
GEORGE W. SIASS,
DARIUS ABER,
PETER CAVANAGH,
JOHN GRIERSON,
HUGH BYRNES,
JOSEPH L. STAGE,
EDWARD MCGOVERN,
WILLIAM ELLIS,
EDWARD PHILLIPS,
HENRY TETTON,
CHAS. M. BUTTERFIELD,
JOHN H. DINGWELL,
JAMES FERNS,
EDWIN CHANBE,
JAMES BRUDFOOT,

THOMAS CARRY,
WILLIAM RESIDES,
ANDREW J. BRUNT,
MICHAEL RAFFERTY,
ARCH'D HUTCHINSON,
CURTIN KELLY,
JAMES HUTSON,
ANDREW MCLARDY,
B. MYERS,
S. L. BARNETT,
FRANCIS C. GEISLER,
WM. COCKEFER,
MICHAEL FLANIGEN,
JOHN BURRAGE,
CHARLES BURGER,
JAMES HIGGANS,
WM. H. MORROW,
CHRISTIAN VIESTAII,

THOMAS DONAGHUE,
 JAMES MAGUIRE,
 FERDINAND HOWARD,
 B. R. SMITH,
 JOHN CAMERON,
 JOHN STEWART,
 WM. H. MILLER,
 ISAAC S. ERNFELD,
 C. B. JOHNSON,
 WM. LAMBERT,
 JOHN EARL,
 JOHN GILBERT,
 GEORGE HALEY,
 WASH'N MUSSELMAN,
 CHARLES GILBERT,
 DANIEL BURBRINK,
 AUGUSTUS WASHBURN,
 ROBERT M. CARNS,
 FASEPH STEINTZ,
 S. S. GASTON,
 EDWIN E. ANNIS,
 MICHAEL A. KELLY,
 JESSE D. WHITE,
 JAMES LAHEY,
 EUGENE SIMS,
 M. S. BECHTEL,
 DANIEL GRUBBS,
 BENJAMIN C. COOK,
 WILLIAM TRAINOR,
 HENRY ECKINROTH,
 HENRY LARKE,
 JAMES A. PEASE,
 JOHN KISTLER,
 JOHN F. FINLEY,
 THOMAS WALLACE,
 PETER W. STOCKSLEGER,
 JAMES A. MCCAULEY,
 JAMES STARR,
 JOHN H. LOW,
 JOHN STEWART,
 GEORGE ROE,
 JAMES MCGINNIS,
 E. D. HILTS,

ROBERT HAUSTON,
 FRANK WOODHOUSE,
 KARL SCHMERDER,
 DAVID C. LOMBARD,
 ABER QUITTERFIELD,
 LEWIS J. CARPENTER,
 WM. H. BOWER,
 DAVID F. HEASLEY,
 ROBERT ADAMS,
 MICHAEL LEBKICHES,
 G. W. AKERS,
 R. M. PRATT,
 FRANCIS HORNTES,
 MICHAEL JOHNSON,
 ARASMUS H. GRUBER,
 WHARTON MOODY,
 THOMAS LEHAY,
 PHILIP WALL,
 MICHAEL McMAHON,
 W. F. MERRIAM,
 JOHN N. LOGAN,
 CORNELIUS STRAIN,
 WILLIAM WALTON,
 GEORGE F. COST,
 EZRA WARMUTH,
 CHARLES W. KINSEY,
 JOSEPH LICHT,
 MARTIN MCCREE,
 PHILIP STRICKER,
 PHILIP HENRY,
 HENRY TITTER,
 WM. THOMPSON,
 G. W. WONDERLEY,
 JOSEPH A. SMITH,
 JEREMIAH BEHU,
 DENNIS MAHONEY,
 JOHN BUCK,
 CHARLES MORTON,
 ELI HURON,
 WM. J. SULTON,
 ROBERT A. SMITH,
 CHAS. M. BUTTERFIELD,
 M. BUCKLEY,

EDWARD KINKLE,
 JOHN BRICK,
 ELMORE CHISMAN,
 THOMAS NUMBERS,
 GEORGE BROWN,
 JAMES R. LYDOC,
 ALBERT A. DUNKARD,
 JOSEPH W. DETWILER,
 CHARLES MARKS,
 JAMES W. SHAW,
 LEWIS ROTH,
 AUGUSTUS DAVIS,
 JOHN F. BROWNE,
 GEORGE W. WARNER,
 R. A. BAIN,
 WILLARD L. COOK,
 CHARLES SANDS,
 PHILIP HICKEY,
 LORANCE A. VANCE,
 DANIEL S. F. PAYNE,
 FENTON GIBSON,
 AUSTIN SIMONS,
 ALFRED C. MONROE,
 JOHN D. IRWIN,
 JACOB WOLF,
 CHARLES McCAY,
 ANDREW McCCLERGY,
 ANDREW COPP,
 WM. R. MELDEN,
 E. E. AMIES,
 EDWIN CHANCE,
 FRANK H. DURRAR,
 GEORGE WEGMAN,
 D. F. S. PAYNE,
 EDW. D. BACKENSTER,
 R. M. PRATT,
 JAMES HARRIS,
 GEORGE STEINMYER,
 MR. RAIRAM,
 GEORGE HALEY,
 J. BRYSON,
 H. FETTER.

The following are among those who have paid for the Arm in advance, viz. :

WM. H. BOWER,	E. D. HURLBUT,	GEORGE RANDALL,
WM. C. EBERT,	CHARLES D. LONG,	WILLIAM HOLMES,
HUGH BYRNE,	B. H. LANCASTER,	EDWARD MORRIS,
ALBERT CADWALLADER,	D. R. PAGE,	FRANZ MARKS.
HARPER SMITH,	J. L. STAGE,	

Additional names presented :

JACOB TEASHER,	JOHN WILLIAMS,	CHRISTIAN B. KRIEGER,
JOHN J. MCCALVE,	JOHN BRADY,	CHARLES DEMUR,
EDWARD B. SHELDON,	GEORGE HOERR,	EDWARD MURPHY,
W. J. NEWCOMBS,	COLLINS MCCARTY,	CHARLES P. WOLF.
J. M. GRIFFITH,		

NOTE.—Many more names have been added to the Petition, which need not be published here.

PHILADELPHIA, October 17, 1863.

TO THE BOARD OF SURGEONS ON ARTIFICIAL ARMS, ETC.

GENTLEMEN: I beg leave respectfully to present my Inventions for your inspection, with my Patents, and the petition of nearly three hundred soldiers, who, having lost arms in the country's service, earnestly and respectfully ask that they may be allowed to purchase my best Patent Arm, on such terms, and with such aid from Government as you may see fit to recommend. They desire none but my *best*, and will more willingly pay *a portion of the price* than accept any other. The names will be increased daily.

Allow me to call your attention to my communication addressed to the Board convened on the 22d day of June last, copies of which papers I now place into your hands, *having already forwarded copies to the Surgeon-General, not knowing that I should be able to appear before this Board.*

Any other limbs presented, with any reference whatever to my name, as sanctioning the act, by persons in my employ, or otherwise, will be useless imitations, wholly unauthorized.

Trusting that the best member will be presented to the gallant,
armless soldier, by this great and beneficent Government,

I am, gentlemen,

Your very obedient servant,

B. FRANK. PALMER.

PHILADELPHIA, November 2, 1863.

TO THE BOARD OF OFFICERS ON ARTIFICIAL ARMS.

GENTLEMEN: I inclose ten letters, all of which were written by persons wearing my Patent Arm. *Not one of them was intended for publication.* Several of the persons have worn other limbs of the most approved kinds. No such instance is found in which preference is not given to my Patent. I have given you the names and residence of a considerable number of soldiers (on the petition signed by over two hundred) for whom I have supplied arms, *at their own expense*, and whose testimony I have no doubt would be given in favor of my Patent. But I have never asked a person for a *certificate* concerning the Arm, having found so ample patronage from the moment its merits were first known, as to render the usual method of advertising quite unnecessary.

I supplied MAJOR-GENERAL HOWARD, whose arm was amputated *near the shoulder*, and have applied an Armor for GENERAL WILDE, whose arm was removed *at the shoulder*. General Howard was obliged to leave the office, to join his command, in such haste, that I had no time to adjust his arm, so that to *myself* it has not been satisfactory. The General expressed much pleasure during the trials, and has recently written me favorably, informing me that he will visit me when he has an opportunity, to have the arm fully adjusted. He anticipates more gratification in its use "when the war is over." So may it be. I am now making the arm for General Wilde. The ARMOR supplied him is a complete success, preserving his form, and protecting the sensitive parts from harm in active service. Generals Howard and Wilde are both in the field,—men of whom the nation may well be proud. (Four Generals are now under treatment for Patent Limbs.)

I take the liberty to inclose the *cartes de visite* of two accomplished young ladies, each of whom has on a "Palmer Hand." The

hand holding the *shawl* so gracefully is the Patent. (Picture No. 1.) The one on which the book rests is the Patent. (No. 2.) The first is *below* the elbow, the second *above*. I present for inspection also, two most *exquisite pieces of needle-work*; one a velvet and satin slipper (watch case), most tastefully ornamented with beads and pearls, the gift of a young lady; it was held, while being wrought, in the Palmer Hand. *I know of but one test that can be reliable, that is the test given by those who wear the Arms.* A "CLUTCH," or HOOK, can be made for a few dollars, but a member that will not prove a burden *to the heart* is what any intelligent person desires. It must not *seem* to be artificial.

The artistic Arm may be so exquisitely formed, with mechanism so complete, as (in the beautiful language of my fair and sensitive friend) to prove a "kindly buoy to the spirits."

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever."

I have this morning finished a hand for a soldier whom I have the pleasure to present to you, to show the application. I have received for it \$100, which was voluntarily offered. I informed the young man *before he gave me his order* that he could obtain one of another party at the expense of Government.

I present a letter from the young man above alluded to, Cadwallader, also one from a soldier, Peter W. Stocksleger, who, having been supplied with an arm which he found useless and does not wear, has placed it into your care, and ordered one of my patent. Their letters are Nos. 11 and 12.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. FRANK. PALMER.

THE FIRST PALMER HAND SUPPLIED.

ST. LOUIS, ALTON AND CHICAGO RAILROAD,
AUDITOR'S OFFICE,
BLOOMINGTON, ILL., January 4th, 1858.

B. F. PALMER, Esq.:

The arm was received in due course of express. *I am perfectly satisfied with it; it goes beyond my expectation. I found no trouble in attaching it. I can use the fork very well, and find it very convenient in many things; in holding a book or paper, for*

instance. *I can write a legible hand with it*,—of course I do not wish to use it for that purpose, it being my *left*. I wrote a few letters to my friends merely to *let them see*. I mention it to you, thinking you might have a case where the right hand was gone; were my right hand gone, instead of my left, I have not the least doubt I could write a fair hand, and did it become necessary, could get a living by using it for that purpose. The longer I use it the more I become attached to it. I should dislike very much to lose the use of it even for a single day. The main point to me is very happily obtained,—that is, the looks; every one says “It is very natural.” You can understand what a gain it is to me. My friends seem to be about as much pleased to see me use it as I am to have it. I would not take the best farm in Illinois for it. I like the arrangement of the clamp in the arm which holds the fingers in place; it works admirably.* With many good wishes, I remain,

Your friend,

O. VAUGHAN,

Ticket Agent, Bloomington, Ill.

PORT MEDWAY, QUEENS CO., N. S.,

February 22d, 1862.

B. F. PALMER, Esq.

DEAR SIR: You will be more interested about the *hand* than anything else at present. I can say it more than equals what I thought came within reach of the “possible.” The truth is *I scarcely feel the loss of the natural hand*. I need not describe to you the many things I am able to do with it, for you had an opportunity of seeing for yourself. I may however mention that I can really write with almost the same ease with it that I can with the other; as a proof of this I may tell you that *I am now writing with the artificial hand*.

The truth is, my friends were altogether astonished when I returned, and so far as the appearance is concerned, *the most observing person would fail to perceive any difference*.

I am yours, &c.,

ALBERT HEMION,

Professor of Languages, &c.

* This hand has been used constantly *without any repairs*.

ALTOONA, December 27, 1857.

B. FRANK. PALMER, Esq.

DEAR SIR: * * * * The hand I am perfectly satisfied with; I can do anything I expected to do with it, *and a great deal more*; in fact, I can do almost anything. * * *

Yours, very truly,

HENRY CARR.

MARTINSVILLE, LANCASTER COUNTY, PA.,
June 10, 1862.

MR. B. F. PALMER.

DEAR SIR: The Arm you made for me meets my fullest expectations. I have tested it very severely in every possible way, for *eighteen months*, and I find it to be invaluable. In driving, of which I have a great deal to do, *I grasp the lines, and hold them almost as firm as with the natural hand; and in eating, I use the fork with the greatest facility.*

J. WITT FRITZ.

WARRENTON, VA., December 29, 1858.

DEAR SIR:

I drop you a word of my safe arrival at home. The limb was not an inconvenience in travelling; the leverage of the stump, short as it was, enables me to manage it quite well. My parents and friends pronounced it a vast improvement,—*quite a triumph in the naturalness of its appearance*. I have no doubt it will give satisfaction. The strap does not cut or chafe me under the arm. The expedient of the back-strap attached to the junction of the suspenders, continues to answer the purpose of assisting the stump in projecting or extending the arm.

Your obedient servant,

P. B. SMITH,

(Son of "Extra Billy Smith.")

BELLEVILLE, ILL., April 20, 1863.

B. FRANK. PALMER, Esq.

DEAR SIR: Having one of your artificial arms, I deem it my duty to inform you that I am well pleased with it, and would not

be without it for any amount of money. It is as near a natural arm as anything can be. I can ride and drive a horse as well as ever, and if it was necessary, I could write with it also. I have tried it in every particular, and *I cannot find anything that I cannot do with it*. All I feel sorry for is, that I did not get one four years ago; it would have saved much misery and inconvenience. But my idea was that I would have to go to Philadelphia, to your establishment, to get one made right. This one could not be made to fit better if I was at your place.

I remain your humble servant,

JACOB MYERS.

ROCHESTER, June 4, 1862.

DEAR DR.:

My hand works very well indeed, and I can assure you *I would not go without it for one day for a great deal*. It is a great help to me in school. In fact, they are almost as good as the natural ones.

I remain your friend,

WM. H. DOWNS.

U. S. QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE,
CHICAGO, ILL., June 17, 1862.

B. F. PALMER, ESQ.

DEAR SIR: My appointment has been confirmed by the U. S. Senate, and I received my commission some time ago, and am under pay, but am very anxious to get my orders, so that I shall know where I am to be sent.

My hand works very well, and I get along first rate. *Money would be no object if I could not get another; it is of great help to me in a thousand different ways; the fork works well.*

I have had a great many examine it, and they all pronounce it very wonderful. I have got so that I can write quite plainly.

I remain truly yours,

GEO. Q. WHITE,
Captain and Asst. Quartermaster.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER RAM FLEET,
FLAG SHIP SWITZERLAND, OFF HELENA, ARK.,
September 6, 1862.

B. F. PALMER, ESQ.

DEAR SIR: My arm is somewhat out of repair, and *it would be impossible for me to do without one after having used it.* I have seen considerable service since I saw you. *Was before Vicksburg during the bombardment, and have been in several guerilla skirmishes.* I like the service much, although dangerous.

I remain, respectfully,

GEO. Q. WHITE,
Captain and Asst. Quartermaster.

ROCHESTER, N. H., June 18, 1863.

MY DEAR FRIEND:

Many thanks for the picture of Major-General Howard, my *companion-in-arms*, and our noble, Christian patriot. * * *

This hand is such a kindly buoy, that it's always a pleasure to dwell upon its merits, and therefore I *talk on*. But I am thinking, if success will insure happiness, then you must possess it in a large degree,—must be full of felicity to the brim; and amid such abundant and oft-repeated expressions of gratitude and appreciation from your numerous family, must have long ago exclaimed, "My cup runneth over!" and thus all these later repetitions fall to the ground. I suppose even pleasant sayings grow wearisome in time, so I will content myself with *just adding that I have found the ability of the Palmer Hand to knit*,—found I could do it *easily*.

Very truly your friend,
(Miss) S. M. W.

PHILADELPHIA, November 4th, 1863.

TO THE BOARD OF SURGEONS ON ARTIFICIAL ARMS.

GENTLEMEN: I have purchased a Palmer Hand from the inventor, at the expense of \$100, and am free to state that I would more willingly be subjected to the entire expense of it than to receive any other artificial limb free of charge. Nevertheless, I beg leave, respectfully, to ask that so much of the amount as in

the future shall be paid for such members by the United States Government, be refunded to me, as I am a young man of very limited means. *Nothing could surpass the perfection of the hand which has been supplied for me.*

With great respect,

Your very obedient servant,

ALBERT CADWALLADER,

Co. H, 138th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers.

PHILADELPHIA, September 15th, 1863.

B. FRANK. PALMER, Esq.

DEAR SIR: I applied to you for a Patent Arm last April, but you informed me that you did not furnish them for Government, the sum paid being insufficient to enable you to make a *good* limb. I then determined to have one of yours even *if I had to pay a portion of the price myself*, but was informed that I *must go to Mr. G.* I did so, and have been furnished with a wooden member, which is wholly useless, and so unartistic and unnatural in appearance as to be a source of mortification to me, so much so, that I do not like to wear it. *I desire you to make an arm for me, of your best quality, for which I will pay you.* I will thank you, also, to forward the one I sent you, of Mr. G.'s make, to the SURGEON-GENERAL, as I desire that he shall know what kind of limbs are being put on the soldiers at the expense of the United States Government, and against the desire of those who receive them.

The opinion I express is entertained by all the soldiers whom I know,—none of them being willing to accept the arm made by Mr. G. You are at liberty to forward this letter with the arm.

Yours truly,

PETER W. STOCKSLEGER,

Co. C, 47th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers.

SOLDIERS, be patient! It is not possible that your PETITION will be rejected.

B. FRANK. PALMER,

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 1863.

Surgeon-Artist.